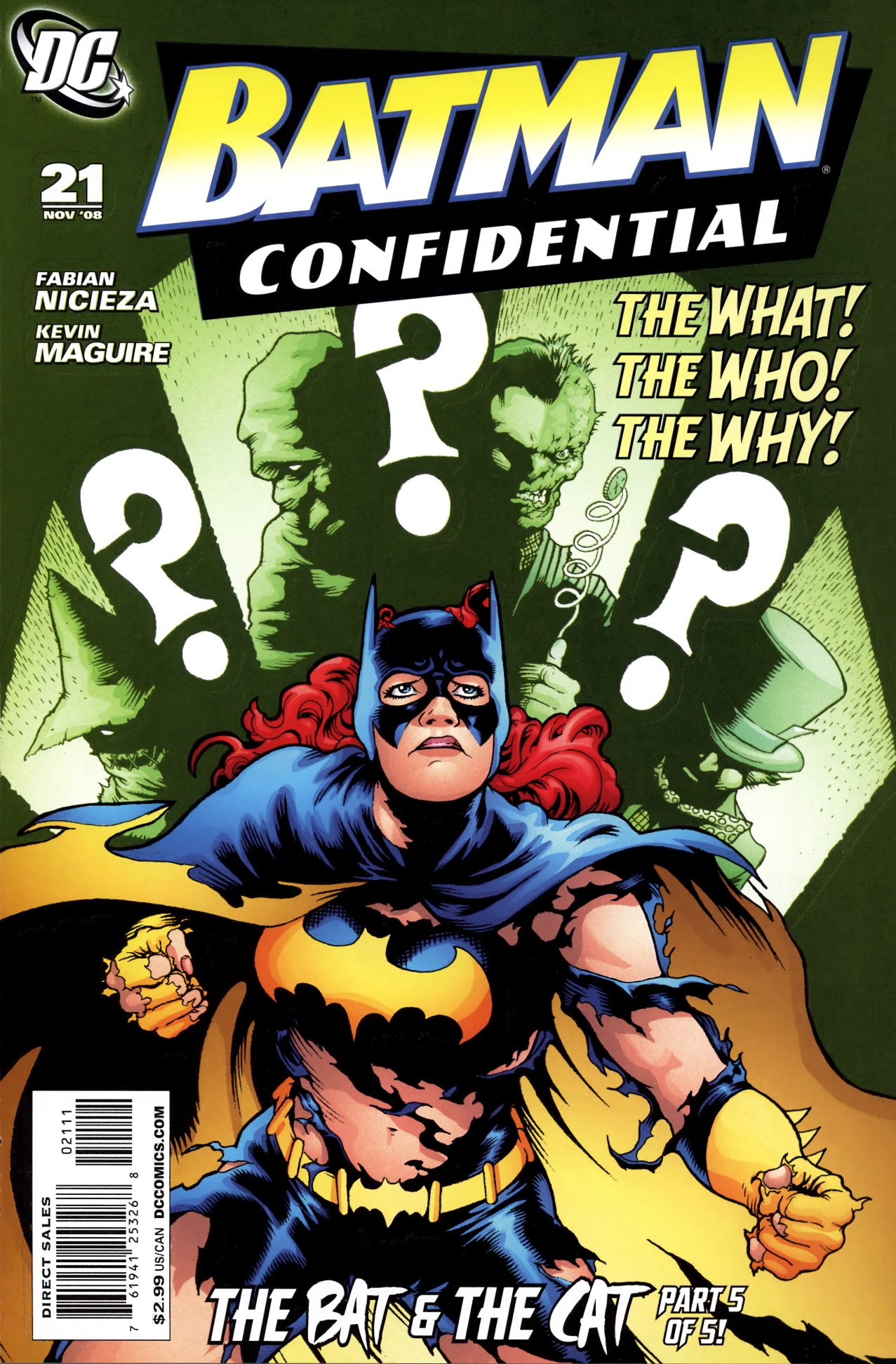
DC
BATMAN
CONFIDENTIAL
21
NOV '08
FABIAN NICIEZA
KEVIN MAGUIRE
THE WHAT!
THE WHO!
THE WHY!
THE BAT & THE CAT
PART 5 OF 5!
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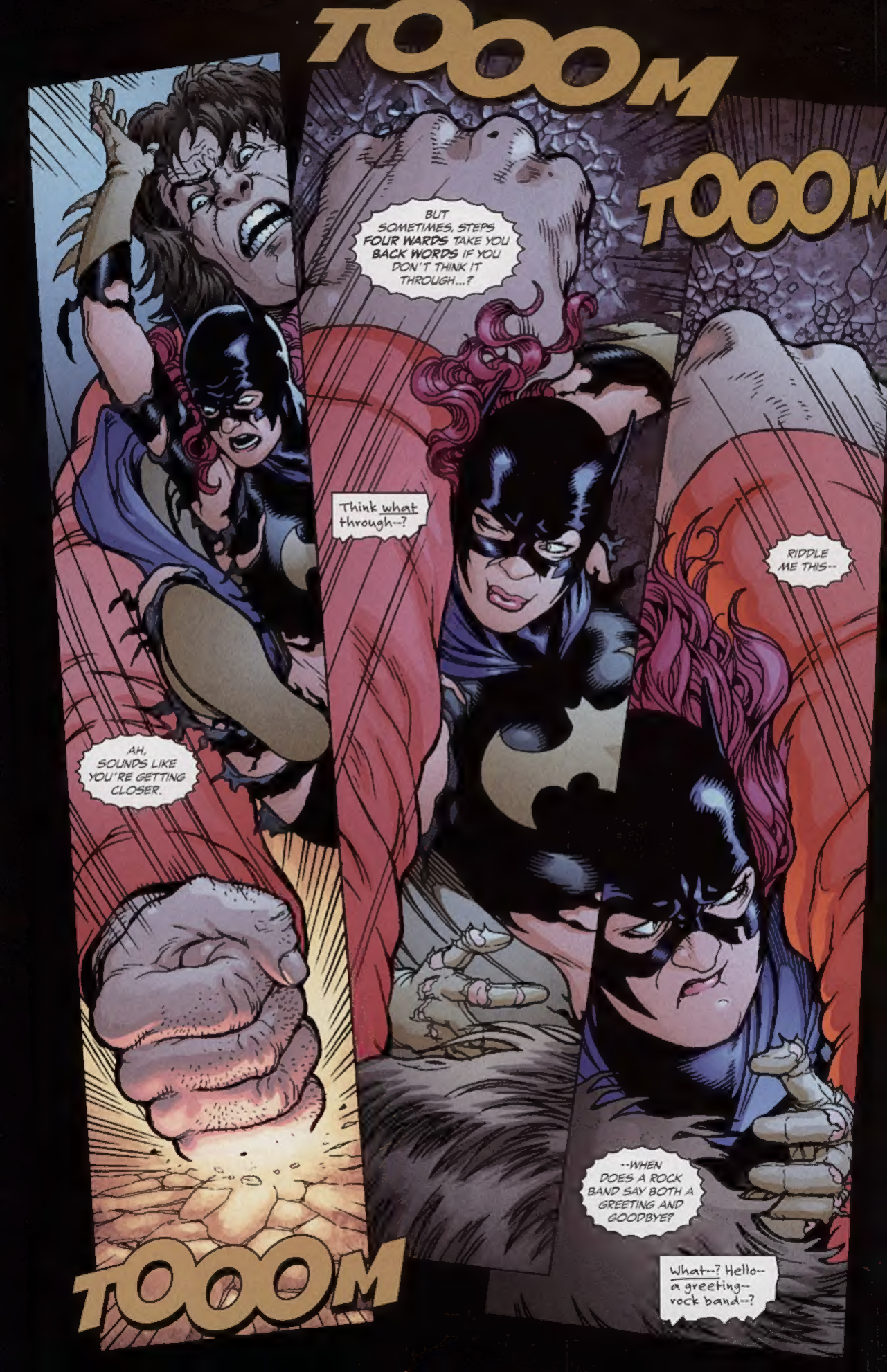
the CAT and the BAT
CONCLUSION
FABIAN NICIEZA • Story & KEVIN MAGUIRE • Art & Cover
I.N.J. • Colors
SAL CIPRIANO • Letters
TOM PALMER JR. • Associate Editor
MIKE CARLIN • Editor
BATMAN created by BOB KANE
Trapped in Arkham Asylum.
And the cell doors have been opened.
And my costume is torn to the point of revealing far more skin than I'm comfortable with.
YOU NEED A MAP TO FIGURE YOUR WAY THROUGH THIS, DON'T YOU, BATGIRL?
The Riddler is running the asylum, holed up in the security control room.

Batman says: Know your opponent.
(Just with a gravelly voice.)
Closest is--
--Catman.
Behind him--
--the Cavalier.
Flanking to the side--
--the Signalman.
Fast.
Don't think.
Just do it!
TIME TO PLAY OUR PARTS. TIME, TIME...

...SO MUCH TIME TO WHITTLE AWAY HERE... THAT A BROOM-STICK--
--BECOMES A RAPIER!
Which is more than you can say about his wit.
SLIKKTH
OW!
So tired of being a pincushion tonight...
SUCH A LOVELY, IF DISHEVELED, YOUNG LADY SHOULD BE ENTICED...
...NOT SPLICED.
Door's closing behind him!
YAAAA!
AN UNDISCIPLINED ATTACK--
Or I got you to throw me--
--SO EASILY DEFLECTED.

--exactly where I wanted to go!
SHUMK
Is that...
...hot breath--?
GIRL.
Blockbuster. Brain-addled bruiser.
PRETTY GIRL.
Well, maybe not so addled...
Hope he doesn't remember the subway...
CRUSH PRETTY GIRL!!
Maybe he does.


TOOOM
TOOOM
BUT SOMETIMES, STEPS FOUR WARDS TAKE YOU BACK WORDS IF YOU DON'T THINK IT THROUGH...?
Think what through--?
RIDDLE ME THIS--
AH, SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GETTING CLOSER.
--WHEN DOES A ROCK BAND SAY BOTH A GREETING AND GOODBYE?
What--? Hello-- a greeting-- rock band--?
TOOOM

KISS!

HRRNN...?
OKAY, SO YOU'VE STOPPED HITTING GOOD, RIGHT?

WE MARRIED NOW?
UHM... NOT LEGALLY, NO... AND... WELL... ...WE SHOULDN'T RUSH...

WE SMOOCH AGAIN?
NOT WITHOUT DINNER AND A MOVIE, BIG BOY.

SHUMK
Okay. Catch your breath.
Where am I? Oh...
...oh, no...
NOW THAT'S A HEADY MUSK...
...SWEAT AND FEAR AND...
... KITTY LITTER...?
Should I say anything?
No...
WHEN IS FEAR MOST LIKE COURAGE?
NOT NOW, EDDIE.
WHEN YOU'RE AFRAID TO FAIL!
OPEN THE DOOR.
EDDIE...
PLAY ALONG.
OPEN. THE. DOORRR.
I'LL OPEN A DOOR. WHICH ONE DEPENDS ON WHO ANSWERS FIRST.
WHAT DO THE DEAD EAT THAT THE LIVING WOULD DIE IF THEY ATE IT?
Oh, God, c'mon Barbara...
ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!
WE HAVE A WINNAH!
Ohmygod-- I did it!
SWEET. HA HA! HA
Don'tlookathim don'tlookathim

SHUMK
Ah, the Joker's not so tough when he's on the other side of a locked door!
WELL DONE, BATGIRL.
UH-HUH.
BUT SUCCESS AND FAILURE ARE AS INTERTWINED AS LIGHT AND...
...DARK!
Crap.
No one to blame but myself for all this.
I took my Dad's notebook out of curiosity.
Catwoman took it out of necessity.
Riddler took it because he always needs to be the smartest man in every room.
And if I have to run his gantlet to get it back...
...then that's what I'm going to do!
IS SOMEONE THERE--?
EVERY TIME THE DOORS OPEN...
Former District Attorney Harvey Dent.

...THE CRAZIES COME OUT TO PLAY.
Scarred by acid and turned into Two-Face.
YOU DRESS LIKE THE BAT!

YES. I'M AFTER THE RIDDLER. HE TOOK SOMETHING THAT BELONGED TO--
Risk telling him the truth? Yes...
--TO POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON.

JIM--?
HMM.

GORDON DOESN'T DESERVE OUR HELP!

THERE ARE SOME... ISSUES...WE HAVE...I HAVE...
...BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG...

BUT THERE'S ALWAYS AN EASY WAY TO CHOOSE.

He flips it to determine his actions.
Heads, he spares me; tails he tries to kill me
How about if I come up with a third choice
POW
Humph. Came up heads.

QUITE THE CLEVER GIRL. BUT NOT CLEVER ENOUGH SO FAR
RIDDLER
A CRYPTOGRAPHER OR A CRYPT... YOUR CHOICE
SHUMK
Something blocking the door...?
Guards. Smell a lingering trace of halothane...
Noise--?
Someone else is here–
NO WAY!
ROBIN--?
And he's shushing me?

He stays in mime mode.
A SECURITY ACCESS CORRIDOR THAT COULD LEAD RIGHT TO THE RIDDLER
ACCESS CODES
I'M SURE THE RIDDLER REPROGRAMMED ANYWAY
--the Riddler's been giving me clues all along!
the longest the Boy Wonder has ever been quiet around me.

OPEN THE DOORS SO I CAN ESCAPE!

I THINK I'D RATHER OPEN THEM SO I COULD ESCAPE!
BUT THANKS FOR SHOWING ME THE SECRET PASSAGE WAY

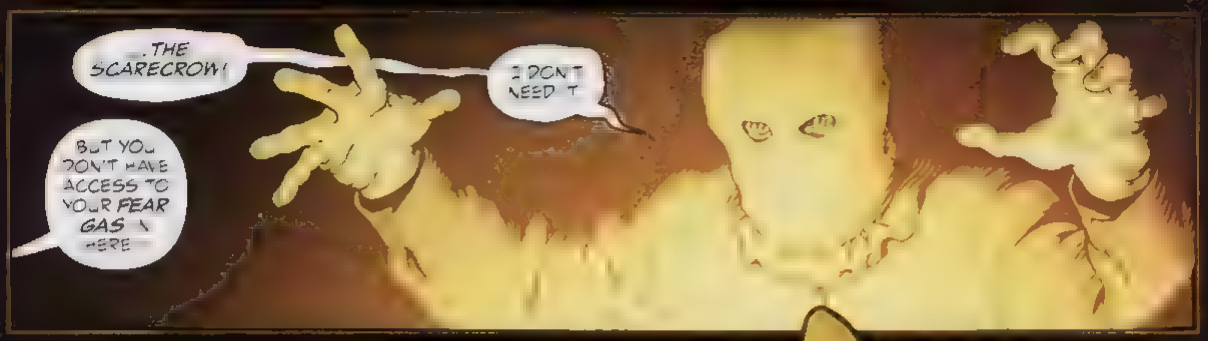
YOU'RE UPSET TAKE A CHILL PILL

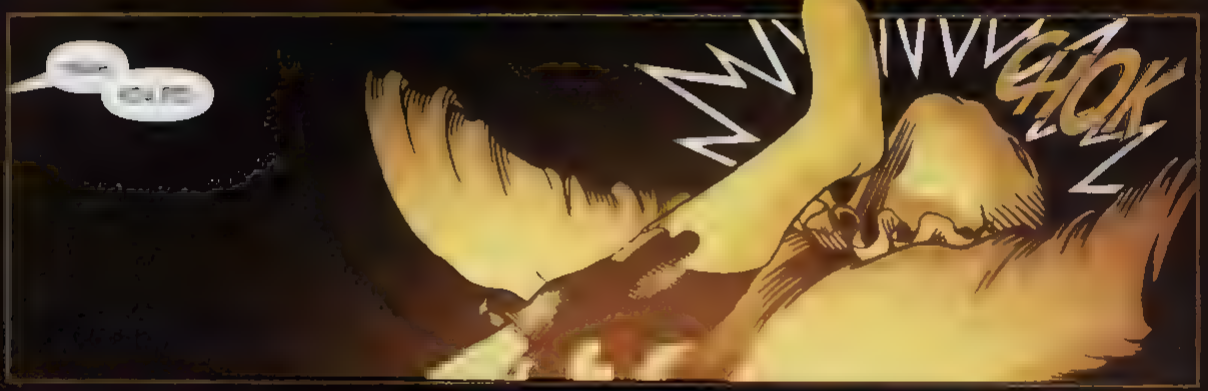
SPLUGGT

That was utterly disgusting!

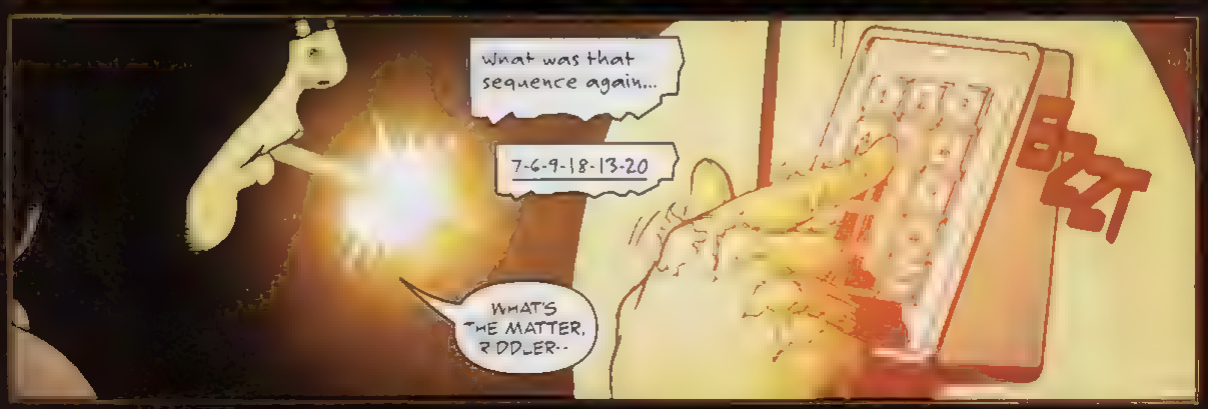
Only have seconds before he re-forms himself.
Four wards the lower Gotham District--
back words--
--he said my Dad's journal code followed a street grid!
Twenty-six crypts reverse alphabet--
--but if I don't know the key word I don't know the number...
Tink
"Cryptographer or crypt"--? Wait! "He's no Alan Turing!" T-U-R-I-N-G in reverse numerical order--
7-6-9 8
13-20
Yes
BZZZZT
SHUMK
SPLUSH!
Harry...
This has really been one of the most terrifyingly exhilarating hours of my life.
SEE NOW YOU'RE USING YOUR NOGGIN' FOR MORE THAN HOLDING UP A PAIR OF POINTY EARS!
What say we trade it all for a right cross to Riddler's jaw and a good night's sleep?

NOW WHAT ?


...THE SCARECROW!
I DON'T NEED IT
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO YOUR FEAR GAS HERE


HOK

THWUMPH
Not in the mood for this anymore.
GOT A LITTLE QUIET ALL OF A SUDDEN, HUH?

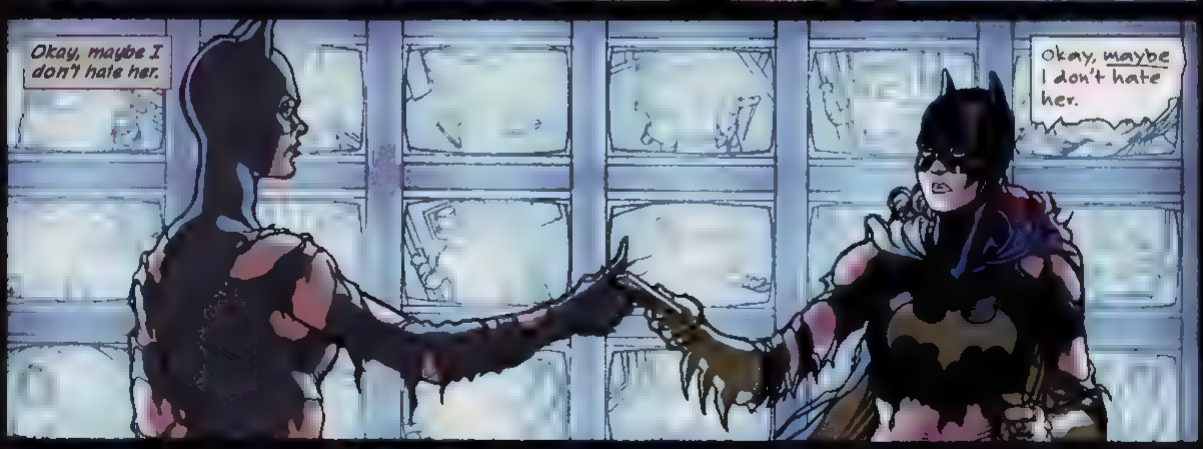

What was that sequence again...
7-6-9-18-13-20
WHAT'S THE MATTER, RIDDLER--
BZZT

BOOM
-CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE-?
-BUT I DID BREAK HIS JAW.
RIGHT CROSS.
SHOULDVE SEEN HIM DROP.
THIS ISN'T FAIR
DID YOU SAY "FAIR"?

YES, "FAIR"!
I HAVE TO CHASE YOU ALL NIGHT LONG AND WATCH BATMAN TAKE DOWN THE RUSSIAN WITH ONE PUNCH!

I HAVE TO FIGHT MY WAY THROUGH THE LEGION OF LOSERS, A SMALL MOUNTAIN THAT THINKS WE'RE ENGAGED, FACES, BOTH CLAY AND TWO--
--PLUS I OUTSMARTED THE JOKER!
AT THE VERY LEAST, I WANTED TO CLEAN RIDDLER'S CLOCK!

OKAY, BUT AT THE VERY MOST, YOU WANTED THIS
My father's notebook!


Okay, maybe I don't hate her.
Okay, maybe I don't hate her.

SO.. MAYBE WE SHOULD BOLT BEFORE THEY TAKE A LOOK AT US AND THINK WE SHOULD BE LOCKED UP HERE TOO ?
BUT MOSTLY YOU, 'CAUSE I MAKE A SHREDDED COSTUME LOOK GOOD.
Okay, maybe I do hate her.

YEAH. DID YOU STOP THE RUSSIANS?
UHM... OF COURSE YOU DID. NEVER MIND.
YOU COULD HAVE TRUSTED HER.
SHE WOULD HAVE HELPED YOU.
SHE COULD HAVE TRUSTED ME.
WHATEVER.
SHE IMPRESSED YOU?
KINDA REIN ON ME LIKE A RASH.
SHIT. GETTING A LITTLE LATE...?
Sunrise? My dad will be home soon...!
UHM... SEE YOU...?
She can act tough, but she knows I won.
She can act cocky, but she knows she lost.
Until next time.

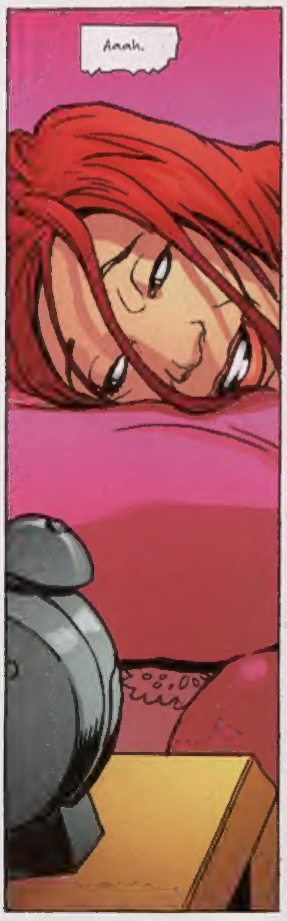
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S SMART? RESOURCEFUL?
TENACIOUS?
RELENTLESS BUT ROBIN HAS BETTER LEGS
YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO HIDE BEHIND THAT WALL OF YOURS.
OH PLEASE. YOU SHOULD TALK!
HMPH
OKAY, FINE SHE'S GOT THE CHOPS. I MEAN, RED HAIR AND FRECKLES IS STILL RIDICULOUS, BUT SHE'S GOT THE CHOPS. AND...
SHE'S STILL HERE, ISN'T SHE...?
AND LISTENING TO EVERYTHING YOU SAID

Smart. Resourceful. Tenacious.
Relentless.
And choppy.
I can live with that.
But I've got better legs than Robin.

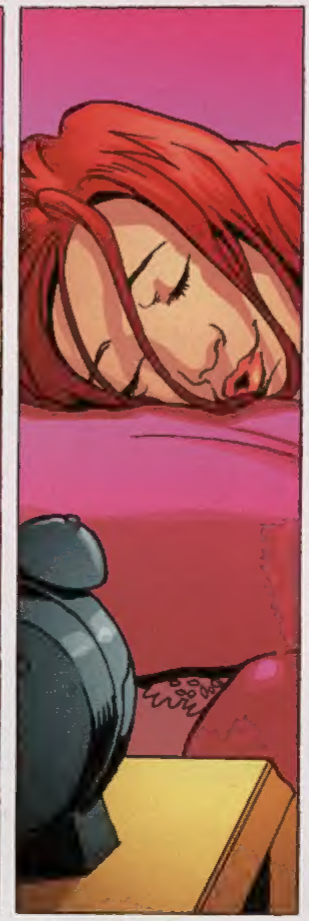
Although, admittedly, he's got a tighter butt.
Get back home. Now that I know the code...
... take five minutes to look through the notebook.

He doesn't suspect Bruce Wayne is Batman.
That was a heck of a rough night just to confirm that.

BED!


Aaah.

I got chops.



BZZZZ
I definitely hate her---!

END

It is really hard to keep a secret in comics. Hi, Senior Story Editor **Ian Sattler** here with a true tale of espionage at San Diego Comic-Con. The news of **Kevin Smith's** impending return to the DCU with **Batman: Cacophony** hit my desk a few months before the show was due to take place. Needless to say, the idea of Kevin doing a three-part Batman story was all sorts of exciting – the kind of big news you want to run right out and tell everybody about. Of course, you can't really spill the beans on a project like this, especially before San Diego, so we had to dig our heels in and do our best to protect the secret. Around the office we referred to Cacophony in code as "Untitled Batman Project." This led to several very confusing conversations between **Dan DiDio** and myself, as one of us would usually forget what the other meant by "Untitled Batman Project." As we got closer to San Diego, I was amazed that word of this project still hadn't leaked. Would we really be able to pull off keeping the whole thing a secret? We pressed forward and decided to announce Cacophony later in the show. Of course it's rare that we ever stick 100% to any plan, so it only came as a mild surprise to me when Dan told me seconds before we went up on stage for the first DC Nation panel on Thursday that not only would we be announcing Cacophony, but that Kevin would actually be there to do so in person. The surprised reaction and ovation the crowd gave Kevin was awesome. It was one of those special convention moments where almost everybody in the room was hearing the news for the first time – all the secrecy had been worth it.

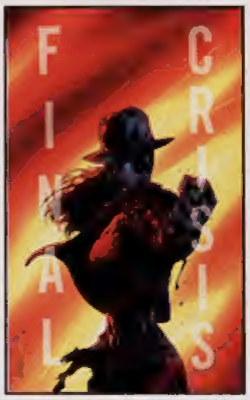
So now that the cat is out of the bag, we can finally speak freely about Batman: Cacophony. The first thing I want to address is – what exactly is a "cacophony"? The dictionary defines the word as "a harsh or discordant sound." Hmmm…I can only assume that this title has something to do with the return of the villainous Onomatopoeia from Kevin's classic Green Arrow story. Also making an appearance over the three issues are Batman, The Joker, Deadshot, Mr. Zsasz, and more! Batman: Cacophony is due to start in November, and for those of you worried about how far along we are in the process I suggest you take a look at the picture above of our friend and the first two completed scripts for the series. Be seeing you soon…

DC NATION

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at dccomics.com

THE HOT LIST THIS WEEK

DC UNIVERSE: DECISIONS #1



FINAL CRISIS: REVELATIONS #2

TRINITY #15

Next in...

BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL #22

A new story begins! Joker's just been arrested, and he's deadlier than ever!

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BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL 21, November, 2008. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to BATMAN CONFIDENTIAL, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 308, Congers, NY 10920. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) $30.00. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage, and GST. GST # is R125821072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2008 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents featured in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper. DC Comics does not mail or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork. This book is manufactured at a facility holding chain-of-custody certification. This paper is made with responsibly managed North American fiber. Printed in Canada.

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